

In-Bound Personnel Guide

04 Oct 2004



Welcome to the USACE Afghanistan Engineer District!



*AED Headquarters Staff
12 Sep 04*

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
AFGHANISTAN ENGINEER DISTRICT

Kabul, Afghanistan
APO AE 09356



Subject: Letter from the Commander

1. I would like to express my sincere appreciation for your interest in helping us rebuild the country of Afghanistan in our fight in the Global War on Terrorism. I have a unique perspective on this mission. As a kid in New Jersey, I watched the Twin Towers being built. As the former New York District Engineer, I watched them fall and I helped to pick up the pieces. Our job is simple- make Afghanistan a secure country that will never harbor terrorists again. We are a critical piece of this mission because security cannot happen without reconstruction and AED is a major player.

2. Duty here is difficult at times and we do not have all of the comforts of home. This country has been absolutely devastated and living and working conditions can be harsh. For those who have never been to this part of the world, it is very hard to comprehend how difficult conditions are here and why we are so vital. We operate in an “expeditionary” environment, usually working seven days a week with occasional time off. It is physically and mentally demanding with a constant concern for personal safety. You will see progress daily, projects here in country move at a rapid pace and it not uncommon to go from bare ground to completed structures in less than six months.

3. Our work here spans the full spectrum of engineering. At one time or another, we have been responsible for everything from erecting tents and filling sandbags to constructing entire installations. We are directly responsible for the day-to-day quality of life for the fledgling Afghan National Army as well as building their new facilities. We are also building new facilities for US Forces and will participate in other economic development and humanitarian projects sponsored by USAID, other donor nations, and our Department of Defense. This inbound guide is a compilation of experience from our staff and it describes life in the Afghanistan Engineer District. Our program is expanding and we are moving out to many locations around the country to accomplish this mission.

4. Again, I thank you for your interest and I hope to welcome you to the Afghanistan Engineer District in the near future. You will be an integral part of the history of the new Afghanistan and our fight against terrorism – ***Essayons!***

JOHN B. O'DOWD
COL, EN
Commanding

Introduction to Afghanistan

So, you've just heard that you will be deployed to Afghanistan to work at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Afghanistan Engineer District in support of Operation Enduring Freedom? Don't panic. It's not that bad... (really). We've decided to publish this handy little guide to help make the trip here and your time at the AED a little easier and more fulfilling. This guide is the culmination of trials and tribulations (and travel horror stories) of those who have gone before you in making this journey. Remember, those who do not remember history, are doomed to repeat it (or something like that). Pay heed.

Orientation/Lay Of The Land



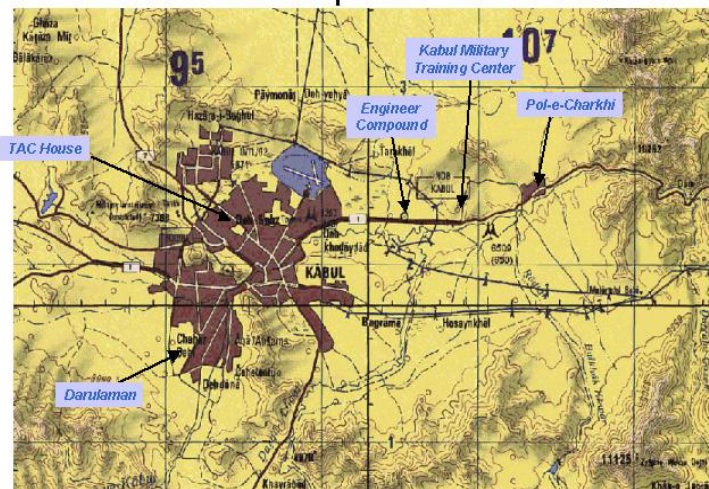
The Afghanistan Engineer District is located in Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan, but we have personnel stationed throughout the country. Situated in Southern Asia, it is a landlocked country roughly the size of Texas. Afghanistan is high desert and similar in appearance to the desert surrounding Las Vegas, but at a much higher altitude. Afghanistan's recent history is characterized by war and civil unrest. The Soviet Union invaded in 1979 but was forced to withdraw 10 years later by anti-Communist Mujahadeen forces supplied and trained by the US, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, and others. Fighting subsequently continued among the various Mujahadeen factions, giving rise to

a state of warlord-ism that eventually spawned the Taliban. Backed by foreign sponsors, the Taliban developed as a political force and eventually seized power. The Taliban were able to capture most of the country, aside from Northern Alliance strongholds primarily in the northeast, until US and allied military action in support of the opposition following the 11 September 2001 terrorist attacks forced the group's downfall. In late 2001, major

leaders from the Afghan opposition groups and Diaspora (or expatriate Afghanis) met in Bonn, Germany and agreed on a plan for the formulation of a new government structure that resulted in the inauguration of Hamid Karzai as Chairman of the Afghan Interim Authority (AIA) on 22 December 2001. The AIA held a nationwide Loya Jirga (Grand Assembly) in June 2002, and Karzai was

elected President by secret ballot of the Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan (TISA). The Transitional Authority has an 18-month mandate to hold a nationwide Loya Jirga to

Map Overview



adopt a constitution and a 24-month mandate to hold nationwide elections. In December 2002, the TISA marked the one-year anniversary of the fall of the Taliban. In addition to occasionally violent political jockeying and ongoing military action to root out remaining terrorists and Taliban elements, the country suffers from enormous poverty, a crumbling infrastructure, and widespread land mines.¹ AED Headquarters is located near the center of Kabul and 1.5 miles west of the US Embassy. The main US military presence, the Kabul Compound, is located less than a mile from AED Headquarters and is where the senior US military staff in Kabul works. The Kabul Compound is also where AED Headquarters residents can send mail home, work out in the gym, visit the health clinic, get haircuts, fuel up vehicles, use the small BX/PX, and take advantage of the free laundry service. Travel to and from Kabul Compound requires a minimum of two people, one of who must be a shooter (military person with a pistol or rifle).

Afghanistan is divided into three geographic regions. The elevation ranges from 500 feet above sea level in the Southwestern Plateau to 25,000 feet in the northeast mountains. Afghanistan has a mostly dry climate marked by seasonal, regional, and daily temperature extremes. The country also has the "Wind of 120 Days," which blows from June through September at velocities that occasionally exceed 110 mph. In the west, mean daily maximum temperatures in summer (April through September) and winter (October through March) generally are 20°F warmer than those in Kabul where extreme



summer highs and winter lows are 100°F and -4°F, respectively. Countrywide, the extreme summer high temperature is 118°F in the west, and the extreme low temperature is -4°F in Kabul. The rainy season lasts from October through April. Although rainfall usually is scant, periodic heavy rains combined with melting snow have caused flooding. Generally, no area receives more than 15 inches of rain annually.²

AED employees Sean Fritzges, Greg Stuzenas, Gary Kuligowski, Jim Wolfe, and MAJ Isaac Washington, with a contractor at KMTC.

For more information go to: <http://www.culturalorientation.net/afghan/atoc.html>

The mission at AED Headquarters is primarily one of rebuilding the Afghan National Army's infrastructure, to include troop barracks, dining facilities, firing ranges, roads, classrooms, sanitation facilities, and other utilities. We also executed a road

¹ CIA World Factbook 2002

² The Soldier's Guide to Staying Healthy in Afghanistan.

reconstruction project from Kabul to Khandahar. Our main areas of concentration at this time are the Pol-e-Charkhi Afghan National Army (ANA) installation, the Kabul Military Training Center, the Darualaman ANA installation, and ANA training and firing ranges. Most job sites are no more than a thirty-minute drive from the AED Headquarters and we have a fleet of commercially leased non-tactical SUVs. In the next several years, we are expecting our main focus to shift to other planned locations for ANA installations such as Kandahar, Herat, and Gardez.

AED Mission

AED has a broad mission and area of responsibility. There are three major program areas: the U.S. Forces Program; the Afghan National Army (ANA) Program; and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Reconstruction of Afghanistan Program. AED's geographic area of responsibility currently includes Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, and Tajikistan.

Support to the U.S. Forces includes construction of temporary and semi-permanent beddown and operational facilities, primarily at four (4) locations where the U.S. Forces have significant presence: Bagram Air Field and Kandahar Airfield in Afghanistan; Manas Air Base in Kyrgyzstan; and Karshi-Khanabad Air Base in Uzbekistan (a.k.a. K2).

Support for the ANA includes construction of bases for ANA Brigades, hospitals and training facilities. There are seven brigade sites currently under construction, with plans for at least an additional eight. Training facilities include a military entry-processing center, a military training complex, and military academy.

Support to USAID includes planning, coordinating, and managing a variety of large scale, multimillion-dollar construction projects throughout the country of Afghanistan. This work is performed through USAID's Office of Infrastructure, Engineering and Energy. Projects include the construction of primary, secondary, urban and district roads; bridges, schools, medical clinics, and irrigation systems; conducting power, dam, and water studies; providing diesel fuel for electrical power generation; and other infrastructure projects.

Other programs include engineering and construction support for Humanitarian Assistance projects, counter-narcotics and law enforcement facilities, and technical assistance to U.S. Forces Provincial Reconstruction Teams, whose activities include construction of facilities such as schools, clinics, wells and roads. We also provide mentoring to the Afghan Ministry of Defense and Ministry of Public Works to assist them with development of policies, systems and procedures.

Life at AED Headquarters

AED Quarters

Most of the residential rooms contain high-speed Internet hook-ups piped through a satellite uplink and telephones linked with TAC in Winchester via voice over IP (VoIP). Internet speeds consistently range from 150kbps to 250 kbps. Some rooms have either a Dell Desktop computer or a laptop and most have DVD software already installed. AED employees can enjoy watching DVDs, sending e-mails, or surfing the Internet in their spare time. For those rooms that do not have these devices, we have a computer lab.

Additionally, all of the rooms at the AED Headquarters compound are equipped with heating and air-conditioning units.

Kabul city power is spotty at best, so we rely on two 100-kva generators to supply our power (with city power as a backup.) Most electrical connections are European 220v with the double round-prong plugs. We do have some 110v power converters, but it is a good idea to bring plug adapters for your appliances and electronics that work on both standards (110 and 220). If you go to Google and type in “dual voltage,” you will be given a list of several companies that specialize in making dual voltage products. If you pre-order the item and want it delivered to you in Afghanistan, please make sure the company ships to APO before ordering.



Meals

Depending on where you are stationed within the AED AOR, be it the main USACE Compound in Kabul or in one of the remote outlying field offices, conditions and provided life support amenities may vary drastically. For the majority of AED personnel daily food service consists of two hot meals, breakfast and dinner, while lunch is to be prepared by employees themselves from pre-packaged MRE's, on-hand groceries, or ingredients provided to employees via care packages. At the AED Headquarters compound, regular shipments of groceries ensure our kitchen remains stocked with a variety of foods, usually including instant noodles, bread, ice cream, snack cakes, energy bars, tea, juice, and soft drinks. Additionally, bottled water and MRE's are always available.

Eating at local restaurants is not allowed due to security, a serious shortage of potable water in country, lack of proper sanitation, and high rates of dysentery and other food borne diseases.

On Fridays the USACE compound in Kabul puts on a barbeque where residents, and guests from neighboring compounds, get together to play volleyball, basket ball, and grill steaks, hot dogs, and chicken. Residents usually prepare an abundance of side dishes as well, such as pasta, potato and fruit salads, baked beans, and desserts.



Laundry

Laundry does not present a problem to AED personnel. You can do your own at our residence, or take advantage of our laundry service. Our contracted service accepts laundry daily, and after being washed, dried and folded, your laundry is normally returned to you in 2 to 3 days.

For security reasons, DCUs cannot be sent out to our laundry service. However, AED employs a house staff which will launder and press your DCUs for \$2 US per set.

Health & Safety

Working safely in AED requires that individuals take special care in their hygiene, wear personal protective equipment when issued, follow established protocols and drive responsibly. Sanitation may be primitive, depending on location. Afghanistan is a high elevation country subject to temperature extremes and dust storms. Emergency care is available at nearby military facilities, but traditional health care is limited. Unique medical and dental problems should be resolved in advance of deployment. Incoming employees must be in good physical condition, able to climb stairs and walk through rough terrain. Work in a war zone for long hours and on fast-paced programs can be stressful. Employees should have a demonstrated ability to perform under these conditions prior to deployment.

Communications

The AED Headquarters and six remote Area Offices communicate with each other across the country as well as to the U.S., each through its own satellite dish.

Our communications capabilities include:

- Internet
- E-mail: *If you let us know that you are coming, your e-mail account will be established in advance. Write to: DLL-CEAED-IM@tac01.usace.army.mil*
- Public dial tone homed in Virginia (friends and family call the 540 area code)
- DSN dial tone homed in Virginia (312 area code)
- Two types of satellite phones
- Mobile (cell) phones with local Afghan numbers
- Two-way, hand-held radios for field communication
- Non-secure Video Teleconferencing (VTC)
- Secure Video Teleconferencing
- Secure communications over SIPRnet
- Various types of desktop and laptop computers

Please note that not all these capabilities/equipment are assigned to everyone. For example, depending on your assignment, you may not be assigned a laptop or other types of devices. Non-emergency MWR phone calls are limited to 30 minutes per week. Be sure to bring a telephone calling card to pay for your calls. One non-secure VTC call may be authorized for a tour exceeding 5 months.

US mail arrives via Bagram Air Base and is trucked down to Kabul Compound. AED Headquarters then makes daily runs to bring the mail to AED Headquarters for distribution. Average times for mailing packages have been two to three weeks and letters seven to ten days. You can mail flat envelopes and letters (up to 13 ounces) free of charge. Larger packages are assessed at standard US postal rates. No package sent from here or to here can exceed 130 inches total dimension (length + circumference) and all packages are subject to inspection by postal authorities. Packages from home are big morale boosters here and many folks send items home they purchase at the bazaars.

Mailing Address (APO)

*Your Name (no rank)
US Army Corps of Engineers
Afghanistan Engineer District
Attn: TAC House
APO AE 09356*

Mailing Address (FEDEX)

*Your Name (no rank)
US Army Corps of Engineers
TAC House
Chara-e-Shirpar
Next to UNAMA Old Compound-A*



Physical Fitness

There is a small work-out room at the AED Headquarters compound with a treadmill, exercise bike, Bowflex machine, and a limited variety of free-weights.

Religious Services

Religious services are available at most of the compounds neighboring the AED Headquarters compound in Kabul.

Security

Afghanistan is designated a combat zone by the Department of Defense. US and Coalition Forces regularly engage remnants of the Taliban, Al Qaeda and other extremist organizations, particularly along the Afghanistan/Pakistan border area. The other parts of Afghanistan fluctuate with intensity of fighting based on regional/local concerns. It is generally agreed upon that the Greater Kabul area is one of the safer areas of the country. However, there still remain threats of indirect fire, rockets, and improvised explosive devices. Fortunately to date, the Afghanistan Engineer District has not sustained any injuries due to hostile fire. Yet, the threat remains, so be vigilant.

In addition to this security, the Military Operations section has a solid working relationship with all the other military organizations in the Kabul area. They keep abreast of the latest threats and intelligence of the various organizations. This information is relayed to the civilians as required or deemed necessary for situational awareness.

For those AED members going out to the various regional areas, the AED personnel work closely with the embedded trainers and other military forces in the area. The AED personnel are integrated into the security plans of these organizations should the need arise for a military response. Like any less developed nation, local law and order is not as omni-present as you would be used to back in the States. Outside Kabul, the criminal activity is frequent and can be violent. Fortunately, most offenders do not attack US personnel, just other locals.

For those individuals assigned to Headquarters AED, you will most likely reside inside a walled, gated compound in the upper scale area of Kabul. With that said, TAC Compound security forces remain on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week without fail. We have an armed local national force that is overseen by our Military Operations section. The LN Guard Force has been with the Unit since its inception and is well respected by the military members of the District. Coupled with the military members of the HQ element, you are protected by about the size of a platoon. Additionally, reactionary mobile forces are within a mile of our location that can be summoned by radio through the Base Defense Operations Center located at Kabul Compound.



There are travel restrictions for moving in and around Kabul that are required to be met for every movement outside the TAC Compound. Please check with your Supervisor or the Operations Officer for further explanation. Upon arrival in Kabul, you will be given an in-depth presentation into the do's and don'ts while you are in theater. Please remember your safety is the primary concern of the Commander. In order to ensure your protection, you will be required to follow

certain military protocols.

There is one formation per week for accountability purposes. This is normally held in conjunction with our weekly house meeting, where we disseminate important information and discuss house related issues as a group.

Uniform Wear and Appearance



All AED personnel are required to properly wear the complete Desert Camouflage Uniform (DCU) during duty hours. Some alternate duty locations may require you to work in civilian attire. In-bound personnel will be advised before arriving if they will need non-military clothing for their tour of duty. Otherwise, the DCU will be worn by both military and civilian personnel without exception. This includes boots (properly laced), socks,

bloused trousers, belt, brown t-shirt and DCU shirt (with sleeves down) and DCU hat (either boonie cap or field cap). Buttons are to be fastened and hair is to be kept off the collar. If authorization is given to remove the DCU shirt, all other aspects of the DCU are still required to be worn by all AED personnel (to include properly laced boots, socks, bloused trousers, belt and brown t-shirt). You will be notified if any situations arise where further alterations to the uniform are authorized. Civilian clothing is permitted during off-duty hours and on Friday shopping trips only. For our civilian personnel, there are no regulations governing hair length or facial hair, but showing respect for local Islamic customs will assist you in maintaining a low tactical profile while at AED. If you are seen in an improper uniform or in civilian attire that may be deemed as offensive, you will be corrected. If you have any questions about the Desert Camouflage Uniform, please feel free to ask one of our military personnel. They will be glad to assist you.

Working at AED

Working in this environment is challenging and rewarding. Due to the diversity of programs and area of responsibility, your assignment may be in any of a variety of locations or countries. However, most of our personnel are located in Afghanistan. We currently have offices in Kabul, Bagram Air Field, Kandahar, Gardez, Herat, and Mazar-e Sharif in Afghanistan; Manas Air Base in Kyrgyzstan; and Karshi-Khanabad Air Base in Uzbekistan. There are also opportunities to work and live with U.S. Forces at individual Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) sites located throughout the country of Afghanistan, and on the Afghanistan-Tajikistan border for construction of a bridge over the Pyandzh River at Shir Khan, Afghanistan and Niznji Pianj, Tajikistan. Most of the outlying sites have separate billeting for our personnel. However, some employees at outlying sites may share facilities/tents with U.S.



military personnel. For the most part, our regional offices, while overall quite austere, provide similar work and living amenities as those provided at AED Headquarters in Kabul, although conditions vary by location. We work with several large U.S. construction contractors as well as regional international contractors and local contractors. Personnel

requirements change rapidly as projects are completed and new projects start, often necessitating reassignment to a different location.

Work Hours at AED

Employees of AED put in long hours. There are no real days off except for Friday afternoons and evenings. The days are long, but the mission keeps us so busy that time seems to fly by. The exact number of hours worked are determined by individual duties and workload.



General Strock tours the AED AOR, August 2004



Barracks Construction at Darualaman

Shopping in Afghanistan

Friday is the Muslim holy day and most job sites operate limited hours with minimal crew and staff. AED employees are encouraged to take advantage of the restricted workload on Friday and many enjoy spending the day shopping at Bazaar's and the PX at the area military installations.

On most Fridays, depending on the security situation, a number of army bases in the greater Kabul area host bazaars, where local Afghan vendors sell their wares to coalition forces. Some of the more popular goods to be found at the bazaars include traditional wool and silk rugs, jewelry, leather and fur goods, tapestries, CDs and DVDs. Bartering is the norm when it comes to purchasing from these markets; it is a time-honored ritual among the vendors and is expected. It always helps negotiations when you have exact change to offer. We recommend that you bring plenty of small bills (ones and fives) from home as such denominations can be hard to come by in country.



In addition to small bills, you will need to bring a check book for withdrawing cash at the Military Finance Center. Be sure to bring a sufficient supply of blank checks to sustain you financially throughout the length of your tour. There are no ATMs available and the Finance Center has strict monthly limits on the amount of USD you may withdraw with each check.

Aside from shopping at the bazaars, there is a PX at neighboring Kabul Compound, where essential toiletries, snack items, and a small selection of electronics, DVDs, CDs, magazines and clothing basics can be purchased. The PX accepts cash, checks, ATM/Debit and credit cards.

Important Items/To Do List

After you get your orders and you know for sure you'll be coming here to Kabul, you should do the following as soon as possible in preparation for the trip:

1) **Get an Official U.S. Government Passport.** Your district or division should have a passport representative who can assist you in this endeavor. You will need this passport (or a valid tourist passport) when you check in for your flight to Germany in transit to Afghanistan. You will also need it upon your arrival in Germany. Civilian employees must have this passport. Military can get by on their orders and military ID card, but an official or tourist passport is always handy as a backup. Also, ensure that TAC sends a country clearance notification of your planned arrival to the US Embassy in Afghanistan. Your command can help with this. There are no visa requirements for official travel in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The process of obtaining an official passport can take a month or more. There is only one government passport office, the Special

Issuance Agency in Washington, D.C., for processing official passport applications. Do not attempt to visit your local passport office in any other major city. They cannot help you and will refer you to the D.C. office anyway. This will be a “no-fee” passport, but your commander or other appropriate official in the district may have to provide written verification when requesting the official passport. You will have to complete the application and enclose two passport photos. The costs you may incur in getting photos and mailing the application are reimbursable on your travel voucher.

More answers on official passports can be found at: <http://travel.state.gov/sia.html>.

2) Get as many of the immunizations you will need before arriving at the CONUS Replacement Center. Currently the following vaccinations will be given for those deploying to Afghanistan: Hepatitis A, influenza, typhoid, yellow fever, Td (tetanus-diphtheria), polio, MMR (measles, mumps, rubella), and smallpox. Contrary to popular myth, rumor, and urban legend, anthrax immunizations are only required for active duty military but are voluntary for civilian employees traveling to Afghanistan. It will do you a world of good to get as many of these shots as possible before you get to the TAC CONUS Replacement Center (CRC) (or other CRC as applicable). A few people who have gotten many (and sometimes all) shots at once at the CRC have fainted or felt queasy during the injections. It can also be a little painful for some. It’s much better to spread them out over a few trips to your local military clinic. Trust us on this one.

This website will provide more medical information for Afghanistan deployments:

<http://www.hooah4health.com/environment/deployment/afghanistan.htm>

Check with your local military health clinic to validate the requirements for all immunizations. Requirements always seem to be changing and the above information may change. Make sure all immunizations taken for deployment are documented properly, or you may have to do the whole process again at the CRC.

3) Ensure that you have a proper security clearance; at a minimum a Secret Security Clearance is required for deployment. (Note: Look at your travel orders to ensure they have your security clearance.)

4) Contact us and let us know you are coming. If you are interested in making additional contact with someone in Afghanistan, contact the Deputy District Commander (currently MAJ Joe Tyron, e-mail: Joe.Tyron@tac01.usace.army.mil) and provide your assignment and date of arrival. We will assign you a point of contact who can answer any questions you may have and assist you in your arrival here.

Recommended Packing List

Weather in Kabul is one of extremes. Depending on the time of year you are coming, you can expect to encounter temperatures ranging from below freezing to 115 Degrees Fahrenheit. There are dust storms that can blow for days and the lack of humidity tends to dry the skin and lead to a hacking cough and sinus problems for newcomers. The rainy

season is in the spring, and the summers are hot and arid. Kabul, Afghanistan, is a high desert plain with an altitude of around 5,800 feet, so it can get cold in the winter.

You should ensure that your deployment orders read “Excess Baggage Authorized.” You will need to claim extra baggage on your travel voucher. Even though your orders say excess baggage, you might also consider mailing some items ahead of time rather than carrying them with you.)

Many people deploying here pack things in a durable plastic footlocker and either ship it ahead of time, or lug it with them on the plane. There are pros and cons to having a footlocker here. It may be convenient if it has rollers/wheels, and it provides you with a place to lock any valuables in your room (theft and room security has not been a problem here though). On the other hand, you will have to haul a large footlocker from your home, through the CRC, to the airport, and around the world if you don’t mail or FedEx it. There is a lot to be said for packing light. It’s up to you.

Life at AED Headquarters is not exactly like roughing it in the wilderness. In reality, AED Headquarters is located on a large comfortable compound in Kabul and is considered to be premium military housing here among the deployed community in Afghanistan. The amenities you will need here are available in the area BX/PX’s. In addition, AED Headquarters are going to move to a new compound at the beginning of 2005 and there will be even more office, common, personal and recreation space available. Work is currently ongoing to renovate the facilities on this compound in preparation for our move.

The following packing list provides you some suggestions. Keep in mind that access to the BX/PX is readily available and they are fairly well stocked with the needed amenities to include things like contact lens care items. If you need something, you can almost for sure find it there. Note: These are recommended suggestions only. None of these items can be claimed on a TDY voucher as a required expense.

- *CEFMS esig card and your passwords*
- *2-3 sets of civilian attire. You’ll wear Desert Camouflage Uniforms (DCUs) during duty time, but you’ll need civvies if you are stuck waiting for a flight anywhere outside of a military air base. You may also want civilian attire to lounge around in during off-duty time. Bring winter clothing if you will be here through Winter (December through February generally).*
- *Toiletries/personal comfort items – what you need to get you through until you can get to the BX/PX. Some bring a large supply, but that is not necessary.*
- *Shower Shoes. Athlete’s Foot. Enough said.*
- *Athletic workout attire if you are so inclined.*
- *Medications. 60 day supply at least. Depending on the medication you may want to consider bringing enough for the entire period of deployment. Some pharmaceuticals may not be readily available for refill.*
- *Check book. You can normally cash checks up to \$400 a month at Kabul Compound, Phoenix Compound, and Bagram AB. Of that you can get up to \$200 in US currency. The rest will be either Afghan currency or the Eagle Cash Card which can be used at the BX/PX and its concessions and the Post*

Office. There are no ATMs. You might want cash to purchase items at local bazaars. Also, brings lots of one and five dollar bills for the bazaars. Most items cost only a few dollars and it is hard to get change sometimes.

- *Blanket/small pillow if you desire to bring them. They are issued here also.*
- *Flashlight (power can go out). The little 2 x AA Maglites are handy.*
- *Leatherman/Knife.*
- *A small footlocker or lockable container for valuables.*
- *Digital camera (photo processing for standard cameras are difficult). Sending e-mail pictures is a big morale booster.*
- *Cold Weather Boots (if your tour is in the winter, these will be issued at CRC along with several other cold weather items).*
- *Pepto-Bismol/Immodium AD. Your intestinal system may require it.*
- *Reading material if you are so inclined.*
- *Plastic garbage bags to line your packed duffle bags. They may sit outside in inclement weather while waiting to be palletized and loaded onto aircraft.*

Beginning Your Journey

Be sure to carry ten (10) or more copies of your travel orders with you as you begin your journey to Afghanistan. You may need to furnish a copy to commercial airline representatives, AMC terminal agents during flight manifests, upon check-in at base lodging facilities, etc. Additionally, you will need to file copies with your travel claims. Also carry your CAC card and passport with you for identity verification.

Traveling into Theater

The current transportation process when deploying from the Washington DC area varies with each in processing CRC group dependant upon current flight schedules/seat availability on Patriot Express flights from Baltimore-Washington International Airport. Whenever possible TAC will manifest deploying personnel on a Patriot Express Flight from Baltimore to Manas, Kyrgyzstan. From Manas Air Base personnel will fly Space A into Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan and be driven by convoy to Kabul. (Please note: It is mandatory for military personnel to be in DCUs from Manas to Bagram, and strongly suggested for civilians as well.) However, as stated above, such travel arrangements are not always feasible and, when necessary, deploying personnel will be flown Commercial to Frankfurt, Germany and will need to travel the remainder of the trip via any number of routes on Space A military transport. Prior to departing the TAC CRC, all deploying personnel will be issued a Space A Travel Guide produced by AED which will assist you through the Space A process.

***NOTE:** For military personnel, you may have to display your weapon to a US Military Police Customs Agent. Customs MPs may be in civilian clothing, but will be easily identifiable as Military personnel. **It is absolutely critical that you have your permit to carry a weapon memorandum issued by the CRC with you.**

Arrival in Afghanistan

Please refer to your Space A travel guide for specific instructions regarding your arrival in country. A few key points of contact you should have readily available upon arrival are listed below:

TAC EOC – Winchester, VA

DSN: 312-265-4111

Comm: 540-665-4111

Email: CETAC@tac01.usace.army.mil

Rhein Main Airbase, AMC Terminal – Frankfurt, Germany

DSN: 314-330-6567/6568

Comm: 49-69-699-6567 / 6568

Email: 762ams.spacea@rheinmain.af.mil

Afghanistan Engineer District, Bagram Field Office

DSN: 318-231-5047

Afghanistan Engineer District, TAC House – Kabul, Afghanistan

DSN: 318-231-5047

POCs: Sara Young, Avril Jones and SSG Karl Hanson

DSN: 312-265-3443

Comm: 540-665-3443

Email: sara.young@tac01.usace.army.mil ; avril.jones@tac01.usace.army.mil;
and/or karl.hanson@tac01.usace.army.mil



The Original TAC House and Motor Pool

AED Headquarters Phone List

Note: To call any cell phone number listed here from the States, the caller should dial 011-93-70-XX-XXXX. You must drop the first zero from the number as listed below and add the international prefix (011) and the country code for Afghanistan (93). For example, the Commander's number is 011-93-70-20-2965. **Afghanistan is 9.5 Hours ahead of EST (8.5 during EDT), 12.5 ahead of PST (11.5 PDT).** In an emergency, the best way for family members or significant others to reach anyone at AED Headquarters is first via cell phone and next through the TAC EOC. EOC staff will then immediately contact AED via the most expeditious means (including satellite phone) and either patch the caller through or relay a message. The TAC EOC phone number is: (540) 665-4111. To call via DSN, the number is (312) 265-XXXX.

CORPS OF ENGINEERS	POSITION	OFFICE PHONE	E-Mail Address
COL O'Dowd, John	Commander	540-665-3440	John.B.O'Dowd@tac01.usace.army.mil
MAJ Tyron, Joe	Deputy Commander	540-665-3478	Joe.Tyron@tac01.usace.army.mil
Mr. Doug Sommer	DDE-PM	540-665-3475	Doug.A.Sommer@tac01.usace.army.mil

Again, we thank you for volunteering to be part of the AED team. You will be an integral part of the history of the new Afghanistan and our fight against terrorism – Essayons!

Welcome to AED!

Brought to you by the combined efforts of AED employees: MAJ Joe Tyron, Doug Sommer, MAJ Mike Pauling, SSG Karl Hanson, SFC Bruce Nestor, SFC John Patrick, Richard Lindsey, Jeff Hepler, and Sara Young.